Impact of various RD schemes

1482. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of various schemes and plan introduced for rural development;

(b) whether any visible improvement in rural life style has been achieved; and

. (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) to (c) The Impact Assessment Studies conducted by the Ministry indicate that the rural development programmes have had favourable impact in raising the standard of living of the rural poor. There has been an improvement in the quality of life in the Villages due to the creation of community assets like roads, drinking water facilities, paved street, sanitation, buildings like community halls, school, panchayat buildings etc.

Shortage of Potable Water

†1483. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even now no proper arrangement for drinking water has been made for ten crore people in the country;

(b) if so, the States where this problem has taken the most formidable shape;

(c) what steps are being taken by Government for the people deprived of the facility of potable water; and

(d) what has been the percentage of success rate so far in the National Potable Water Mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Water supply is a State subject and drinking water facilities are provided under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). The Central Government supplements the efforts of the States by providing assistance under the Centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

As per the information furnished by the State Governments, as on 1st April 1999, 97.59% of the rural habitations have access to drinking water facilities. In terms of population, out of a rural population of 62.87 crore (1991 census), as on 1st April 1999, approximately 61.64 crore have been provided with access to drinking water facilities and the coverage is lowest in States of Kerala, Nagaland and Punjab. As regard urban population, out of a population of 23.93 crore as estimated for 31* March, 1997, approximately 21.57 crore have been provided with access to drinking water facilities till 31" March, 1997 and the coverage is lowest in Dadra & Nagar Haveli (UT) and States of Mizoram and Assam.

All the States have been requested to prepare action plans to provide drinking water to all rural habitations in the next five years. The objective could be achieved, subject to availability of funds. Similarly, 100% urban population is targeted to be provided with safe drinking water facilities in the Ninth Plan Period, subject to availability of funds.

In order to ensure sustainability of the systems created under the Rural Water Supply Programme, the Government has initiated action to institutionalise community participation in the planning and implementation of the Rural Water Supply Schemes.

Connectivity of villages in Madhya Pradesh

1484. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Madhya Pradesh which are not connected by Pucca all-weather roads;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have prepared a National Rural Connectivity Scheme; and

(c) what Central Government will do in the next four years to ensure hundred per cent connectivity of villages in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The Government of Madhya Pradesh have intimated that 22,945 villages are yet to be connected by roads in the State.